

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

January 17, 2002 LB 824

out here with all of its flaws, because nobody wanted to take the time and go through the trouble of trying to work through the hodgepodge of notions that needed changing and correcting. And since it was to provide a cover, it didn't matter what form it came out here because all the public would be aware of is that senators voted to put a bill out that would say that a fetus is a person. Well, now we are going in a multitude of different directions, and I don't believe there are five people on the floor of this Legislature who can explain what we have been talking about; I don't mean just state like a laundry list, but explain the concepts that have been presented and describe the impact those concepts will have in the real world if they become the law of this state. A bill like this should not be rewritten on the floor. It should be done in the committee if it's going to be taken seriously. I don't even think it ought to be on the agenda before us because it is not a priority bill. But I think this bill and the fetal research bill were on the agenda and carried over and given super priority status because of the pressure from outside this Chamber in the form of threats from pro-life, Nebraska Right to Life. That's why this bill is on the agenda so high. So you all needn't talk when you change the rules about a speaker being able to withstand pressure, the Legislature being able to withstand pressure, because while you're making those very statements pressure is governing what happens in this Legislature. I have to give... I have to give Ms. Schmidt-Albin some credit this morning. I have said I run the Legislature. Well, this morning, Julie Schmidt-Albin is running the Legislature, and she's got them running like... scampering, not running, scampering like scared rabbits. And time will tell what kind of legislation is going to be ultimately voted on. Since it's Senator Foley's bill, I think we ought to allow him to make his bed and lie in it. If he, based on his best lights, considering the information he has been given, feels that his amendment is the one that ought to replace the green copy of the bill, I'm going to support him in that regard because I don't like either version of the amendment. Senator Brashear has touched only one part of the bill, and if his amendment is adopted, people will feel that all the work has been done. I'd like to ask him a question, since his is the amendment that's before us right now. Senator Brashear, I'd like to ask you a question.